

Although I am a conservative and lean to the right on many issues, I find the attempt to further deregulate the airwaves as cause for avarice and alarm. In theory, the airwaves are owned by the public, but I wonder how few of the public can literally afford to own a piece of the airwaves. Also in theory, our American government is commissioned to serve, not be served by deep-pocketed moguls. It exists FOR the people, and therefore the FCC, as a Federal agency, should seek that which is ultimately healthy for citizens. If it will not, its doors should be closed, for it no longer serves its purpose. Regulations, when necessary, are not oppressive but freeing--they enforce our governmental systems of checks and balances to safeguard the public, encourage productive competition in the marketplace, and reserve a forum for the little man to be heard. Take note that opposition to the proposed deregulation is widespread and crosses political, religious, ethnic, and economic lines. I especially appreciate Mr. Adelstein for doing his job and listening to the citizens he serves. His super-sized McDonald's analogy is not only humorous, but relevant.

Let us not forget the recipes for disaster that history has handed down. You know the ingredients: consolidation of media and industry under a few individuals, one political party dominating the bodies of government, a nervous, chauvinistic populace, a political hero to manipulate that fear and pride, and a superpower military with ample ammo to spend at home and abroad. But of course, this could never happen in America because we're smart, invincible, well-armed, and "the enemy" only exists outside of our borders.